



## *South Central MIRECC Communiqué*

A publication of the Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

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### *“Closing the efficacy-effectiveness gap”*

#### **South Central MIRECC Names New Associate Director for Research: Lauren B. Marangell, MD**

Jennifer Vasterling, PhD, Senior Research Investigator, New Orleans, LA

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our new Associate Director for Research, Dr. Lauren Marangell. For those of you who already know Lauren, you will recognize immediately how lucky we are to involve her more deeply in the administration of the SC MIRECC. For those of you who do not yet know Lauren, I urge you to become acquainted with her. As you will see in the accompanying article, Lauren brings to this position extensive research, mental health, and administrative expertise and experience. She also happens to be a delight to work with.

I wish to thank those of you with whom I have been fortunate enough to interact as Associate Director for Research. It was a privilege to work with all of you, and I look forward to continuing our interactions, albeit in a different capacity. The decision to change my role within the SC MIRECC was one to which I gave great thought; however, knowing what very capable hands were assuming my old position made a difficult decision much easier. For that, I am very grateful to Lauren.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Dr. Lauren Marangell to her new role as SC MIRECC Associate Director for Research.

Jennifer J. Vasterling, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Investigator

After completing her internship, residency, and chief residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in New York, Dr. Marangell spent three years at the National Institute of Mental Health as a Fellow and Senior Staff Fellow specializing in mood disorders research. She was recruited to Baylor College of Medicine in 1994 to establish the mood disorders research program. Presently, Dr. Marangell serves as Brown Foundation Chair of the Psychopharmacology of Mood, the Director of Mood Disorders Research, and is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine. Since 2003, Dr. Marangell has served as Co-Director of the MIRECC Psychopharmacology Research, Education, and Clinical Enhancement Program (PRECEP) and since 2004 has served as Research Psychiatrist at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Houston, TX. She is extremely accomplished in all aspects of research. She serves as a grant reviewer for NIMH and the United Kingdom Medical Research Council and recently completed a term as a member of the FDA Psychopharmacology Advisory Panel. She is also a member of the National Scientific Advisory Board for the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance and is co-director of the NIMH Bipolar Trials Network. Dr.

Marangell is also lead author of *Concise Guide to Psychopharmacology*, published by The American Psychiatric Press, Inc., which is now in its second edition.

Dr. Marangell has an active research program involving treatment development in mood disorders, including bipolar disorder and unipolar major depression. She serves as National Co-director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) *Bipolar Disorder Trials Network* and is the co-PI with Mark Kunik, MD, for *Acute Pharmacotherapy of Late-Life Mania* (NIMH) as well as the Baylor PI for *Biomarkers for Rapid Identification of Treatment Effectiveness in Major Depression* studies. Dr. Marangell remarked "I am delighted to be part of the VISN 16 MIRECC team as I have seen how much this varied and talented group has accomplished to improve the lives of veterans with psychiatric illnesses. I hope to follow the tremendous example that Jennifer Vasterling provided in this position." Dr. Marangell can be contacted at [laurenm@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:laurenm@bcm.tmc.edu).

### New Online Library Resource

The VISN 16 Librarians Group recently announced two additions to the VISN 16 Virtual Library for 2006. These are *Psychiatry Online* (<http://www.psychiatryonline.com/>) and *Ovid - Nursing Collection II* (<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=dblist&NEWS=n>). Now, Ovid includes several additional nursing publications, and *Psychiatry Online* provides online access to *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, *Psychiatric Services*, *Psychosomatics*, *The Journal of Neuropsychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences*, *Academic Psychiatry*, and *Psychiatric News*.

To access the VA Virtual Library, click on your Library link at your facility Home Page. You will find a wealth of other research and education resources there, including *The Cochrane Library*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *PsychInfo*, and *PubMed*, to name just a few. If you have questions about these resources, please contact your facility librarian.

### Resources for OIF/OEF Veterans and Their Families

Attached is a resource list for OIF/OEF veterans and their families. The list as compiled by Michelle D. Sherman, Ph.D. This list primarily focuses on resources specific to OIF/OEF issues. Additional general resources are also included in hopes that they will also be useful.



### Monthly Email Alerts Begin for South Central MIRECC Web Site

A new SC MIRECC communication pathway was initiated at the beginning of April 2006. A monthly email message will be delivered to MIRECC personnel and others interested in staying informed about new postings to our web site. Each brief message will simply contain bulleted items that are linked to the respective source material or content page. New web postings typically offer information regarding research, education, and clinical activities. Anyone receiving the email message may opt-out of future mailings. Tom Teasdale, DrPH (web maintainer) welcomes all comments on the web site and the email alert – [thomas.teasdale@med.va.gov](mailto:thomas.teasdale@med.va.gov).

## Second MIRECC Training in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Skills and Recovery Model

On May 18-19, 2006, in Little Rock, AR, 30 clinicians will participate in the second MIRECC psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) skills training. After this training, each VISN 16 facility will have providers trained in PSR skills and the recovery model of care. Providing PSR services is an important priority in the VA Mental Health Strategic Plan and the VHA Action Agenda. This training is designed to help providers implement recovery oriented PSR services in specialized mental health programs at their facility, such as Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)/Supported Employment (SE), Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), Day Treatment, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Homeless. Clinicians representing nine medical centers in VISN 16 (Alexandria, Fayetteville, Gulf Coast, Houston, Jackson, Little Rock, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Shreveport) are participating. In addition, clinicians from three facilities in VISN 17 (Dallas, San Antonio, Waco) and one facility in VISN 9 (Memphis) are also participating in this training.

The program faculty includes eight clinicians who completed and were certified as trainers in the first MIRECC PSR training in 2004. These individuals completed a very intensive, week-long training conducted by the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, University of Chicago. The second PSR training was developed by the eight of the original trainees and was coordinated by Lisa Martone, RN, APN (Little Rock). The May trainers include Ms. Martone, Kathleen Dohoney, PsyD (Dallas), Melanie Goldman, MSW (Muskogee), Wayne Gregory, PhD (Waco), Dolores Hendrix-Giles, MSW (Houston), Mike Nichols, MS (Little Rock), Sylvia Ranson, RN (Little Rock), and Craig Rookey, PhD (Little Rock). This group has been very active in implementing psychosocial rehabilitation services at their facilities since their training.

In addition, Christine Woods (Central Office), National Consultant, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Services, will present on the “Why, How, and When VA Becomes a Recovery Oriented Mental Health System.” Ms. Woods will also lead a special pre-training session with just the trainers.

For more information about recovery oriented services and the recovery model, contact [Michael.kauth@med.va.gov](mailto:Michael.kauth@med.va.gov).

### Web Presentation on Addiction Pharmacotherapy

The MIRECC *Bringing Science to Practice* web-based conference series presents **Eve Wiseman, M.D.** on the “**Addiction Pharmacotherapy Update,**” **May 18, noon to 1:00 PM CT**. Dr. Wiseman has been clinical chief of the substance abuse treatment section at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System since 1992. She oversaw a successful transformation of the section from inpatient to totally outpatient and implemented targeted addiction pharmacotherapy within the section, including nicotine replacement, Zyban, naltrexone, acamprosate, and buprenorphine. Dr. Wiseman is also interested in substance abuse treatment of elderly patients and previously completed a geriatric psychiatry fellowship at UCLA.

The PowerPoint slides for Dr. Wiseman’s presentation can be downloaded from a VA-networked computer at <http://vaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm> beginning May 17. The live audioconference can be accessed November 17 at **1-800-767-1750, access code 45566#**. This presentation is accredited for 1.0 hour of discipline-specific continuing education by the VA Employee Education System.

## VISN 16 Recovery Committee Established

Recently, the VISN 16 Recovery Committee was established to develop plans to implement over the next three to five years a recovery model of care in programs serving serious mentally ill veterans. Implementing a recovery model of care in mental health programs is a key priority in the VA Mental Health Strategic Plan and the VHA Action Agenda. The recovery model emphasizes consumer autonomy, family involvement, and hope for a higher quality of life. In the recovery model, providers assist consumers in setting their own goals for treatment and in working toward the highest level of social and occupational functioning possible. All networks have established or are moving toward establishing their own committee to develop plans for implementation of the recovery model.

Serving as Co-Chairs of the VISN 16 Recovery Committee are Joseph DeVance Hamilton, MD, Mental Health Care Line Executive at the MEDVAMC in Houston, and Michael Kauth, PhD, Co-Director of the South Central MIRECC, New Orleans. Committee members represent a range of professional disciplines and key stakeholders; members include Teri Brister, MS, LPC (NAMI, Jackson), Matt Chinman, PhD (RAND/West Los Angeles), Janet Gearin, CNS (Tulsa CBOC), Vanessa Hansson (veteran, Oklahoma City), Lisa Martone, RN, APN (Little Rock), and Kim Pearson, CSW-PIP (Mount Vernon CBOC). The committee will submit their plans to the Mental Health Product Line Manager by the end of the calendar year.



## Fellowship Videoconference Series on Research & Methodology

The VA Special Fellowship Program in Advance Psychiatry and Psychology hosts a series of excellent videoconferences on research and methodology. The current series runs through June 2006. These programs are intended for junior investigators and research trainees. Non-MIRECC Fellows are welcome to attend. To join a videoconference, contact Dr. Ruth O'Hara, Director, Special Fellowship Hubsite, at [roh@stanford.edu](mailto:roh@stanford.edu) or 650-493-5000 x63620 *well in advance of the program* to determine how and where your local site can view the conference. You can also join the program on *audio-only* and follow the slides from your desktop.

### **May 3: Data Transformation Approaches and the Importance of Centering**

Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm EST, 12:00 – 2:00 pm CST, 11:00-1:00pm MST, 10:00am – 12:00pm PST

Presenter: Helena Kraemer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Biostatistics,  
Department of Psychiatry, Stanford University

### **May 17: Behavioral Treatment Approaches in Mental Health: Examples from Smoking Cessation Programs**

Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm EST, 12:00 – 2:00 pm CST, 11:00-1:00pm MST, 10:00am – 12:00pm PST

Presenters: Andrea Weinberger, MIRECC Psychology Fellow,  
West Haven VA, Yale University  
Jessica Cook, MIRECC Psychology Fellow,  
Seattle VA, University of Washington

### **June 7: Time Analysis and the Limitations of Repeated Analysis of Variance**

Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm EST, 12:00 – 2:00 pm CST, 11:00-1:00pm MST, 10:00am – 12:00pm PST

Presenter: Helena Kraemer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Biostatistics,  
Department of Psychiatry, Stanford University

## Announcements

Publications, presentations and new grants *since December 2005* will be printed in the July 2006 issue. MIRECC Affiliates and staff, please send these items to [Michael.Kauth@va.gov](mailto:Michael.Kauth@va.gov).

## Congratulations for a Job Well Done!

JoAnn Kirchner, MD, MIRECC Associate Director for Improving Clinical Services, received a Network Recognition Award for her outstanding service as Acting Mental Health Product Line (MHPL) Manager for two days during the Hurricane Katrina aftermath.



## May Conference Calls 1-800-767-1750

- 1—Education Core, 2:00 PM CT, access code 16821#
- 1—Access Group, 2:00 PM CT, access code 97738#
- 9—Directors Call, 3:30 PM CT, access code 19356#
- 3—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 10—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 17—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 24—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 31—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 17—Program Assistants, 2:00 PM CT, access code 43593#
- 23—Directors Call, 3:30 PM CT, access code 19356#

The next issue of the *South Central MIRECC Communiqué* will be published June 5, 2006. Deadline for submission of items to the June newsletter is May 29. Urgent items may be submitted for publication in the *Communiqué Newsflash* at any time. Email items to the Editor, Michael R. Kauth, Ph.D., at [Michael.Kauth@med.va.gov](mailto:Michael.Kauth@med.va.gov) or FAX to (601) 364-1395.

South Central MIRECC Internet site: [www.va.gov/scmirecc/](http://www.va.gov/scmirecc/)

SC MIRECC intranet site: [yaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm](http://yaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm)

National MIRECC Internet site: [www.mirecc.med.va.gov](http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov)